

# NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS



*prepared by the public services division*

November 10, 1972

## ARBORETUM DIVISION

Rough grading was completed at Meadow Brook and the first cement has been put down. Electrical work has been started and all other phases are going according to schedule. This last month in the Arboretum Division has been Meadow Brook, Meadow Brook, Meadow Brook.

The Seasonal Work Center went deciduous during the recent wind storm, but any damage done by the wind has been offset by the volunteers who have started their flower and vegetable information garden north of the seasonal work center.

Work on Bottle Brush Island has been completed. Excess plant material was removed and an automatic sprinkler system installed.

Remember to save December 16th for the Christmas party.

## PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

The volunteer field leader training program is now in its final weeks, and the new field leaders will receive certificates training completion on November 13 at the regular Las Voluntarias meeting. This year's training stressed the use of other areas on the grounds for trips to lessen the impact of 25,000 school children annually on the grounds, and to provide more varied experience for both field leaders and children.

The Minibus will be out of service for several weeks while it is being overhauled at Mechanical Dept. shops. The Minibus was purchased in the summer of 1966, and has travelled about 60,000 miles on the grounds, equivalent to 24,000 tram tours, carrying about 1.2 million visitors. While the Minibus is being serviced, the Clark Tractor tram will do solo duty.

As everyone either remembered Saturday night or discovered Sunday morning, Daylight Savings Time is no longer in effect, and as we revert to Standard Time, the hours at the three facilities change back to the winter schedule, daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## RESEARCH DIVISION

Jack McCaskill has been appointed a member of the public relations committee which will help prepare for the celebration of the City of Pasadena's 100th birthday in 1974. Jack was also appointed to the San Juan Capistrano Bicentennial Committee which will prepare the celebrations of that organization's 200th birthday in 1976. His appointment followed a talk he gave last September to the San Juan Historical Society on the bicentennials of the first five missions of the chain of 21 missions here in California, and on the medallions that have been issued to commemorate them.

Linda Thorne has recently been selected to fill a new position of Plant Research Aid. She will continue to work with George Hanson in air pollution research and will be assisting in new breeding studies. Linda is not a new face at the Arboretum as she has been doing research here for the past four years under various titles such as Research Assistant under a NIH grant, Student Professional Worker for LASCA, and Volunteer when funds were unavailable.

The new face seen recently around the Research Division belongs to Margaret Heeb. She is a Student Professional Worker who will be working with Dr. Berry on the water pollution project. She is presently a junior at Cal State University, majoring in biochemistry.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Business Office would like to welcome Louis Marks, a new Student Worker, to their staff.

The CAP "Flowers" have been doing very well the last three weeks since they got their uniforms. They still need your support to spur them on to greater victories. Come support your team on Monday night November 13 at 8:30 at Arcadia Park.

## DESCANSO GARDENS

The Chrysanthemum Show last October 28 and 29 attracted over 4000 people.

Mark Anthony visited the grounds recently. He is recuperating at home and we are glad to see him making such good progress. Pete Zabriskie paid us a visit on Friday; the cast has been removed from his leg and we are hoping to see him back on the job within a short time.

Recently seen in the garden was one roadrunner, one kingfish, many humming birds, and a killedeer. Overhead at the bird station: The teacher asked the class if anyone could identify the creature with the top notch. There was no reply. Then the teacher said, "That is a western tufted titmouse," to which one young lady replied, "Well, I know that it is not a bird."

If you happened to see MOD SQUAD on T.V. recently, you were looking into the heart of Descanso Gardens. That program was filmed here in the gardens late in July.

We must mention it now, December 2nd - 10th the Guild will sponsor the ever-popular Christmas Decoration Show. If you haven't seen it, you can't afford to miss it.

## SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The landscaping of the southwest portion (4 acres) of the garden has been completed. Trees, shrubs, and plenty of ground covers were the order of the day.

Further development in the remodeling of the garden included a new coat of black shield on the parking lot of the service yard.

A most interesting session of the South Bay Herb Society was given on Sunday October 23, featuring Betty Wylder's talk "Herbs of Legend and Superstition." The worldwide use of herbs has often been accompanied by ritualistic incantations and ceremonies to insure or nullify their effects. The strange and unusual attributes of herbs are little known. Herbs and items of mystical effects were shown to the public with an enthusiastic response from visitors.

Several of our staff recently returned from late season vacations with exciting reports of their travels. Day Pinney's trip to Oregon yielded interesting accounts of unusual natural phenomena. Stu Bedwell's visit to Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was quite informative and Stu reports that they have a very respectable collection of specimens in the Native Section.

Birders report observations of the following species: eared, western and pied-billed grebes; spotted and pectoral sandpipers; greater yellowlegs, northern phalarope, belted kingfisher, and bank swallow. In addition, a number of unusual vagrants have appeared, including: vermilion flycatcher, eastern phoebe, Tennessee warbler, blackpoll, palm warbler, yellow-throated warbler, blackburnian warbler and white-winged dove. These vagrants are eastern and southwestern birds not normally found in California, but are observed, at best infrequently, during migrations.

Fall Flowering trees and shrubs include: Baja polygala (*Polygala apopetala*), *Cassia bicapsularis*, *Cassia surattensis*, *Pereskia bleo*, *Abutilon megapotamicum*, *Chorisia speciosa*, and an outstanding specimen of *Joyote thevetia* (*Thevetia yocotli*).

## EDUCATION DIVISION

Youth education classes are in full swing for the fall. Rows of lettuce, cabbage, carrot, kohlrabi, and other vegetables are progressing into attractive garden plots and students are taking pride in their accomplishments at all three facilities.

Mrs. Ann Lanselle, a member of Las Voluntarias is conducting an excellent class in container gardening at LASCA.